

T/IX/MM-2
22 January 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR: CODIB Task Team IX

FROM : Chairman

SUBJECT : Status Report, ADP Color Code for USIB

1. As a follow up on the first background report, dated 1 December 1964 submitted to Task Team IX, I have been in touch with Major Herman S. Beck, Jr., Joint Strategic Command and Control Requirements Group of the JCS, who is in charge of the JCS activity to introduce a common DoD code for magnetic tape.

2. On January 1965, Major Beck gave the following information:

a. Responses to JCS message of 27 October 1964 requesting an inventory of DoD color codes have not yet been received from all Services. Army and Marine Corps are lagging.

b. Currently used color codes as revealed from responses received so far by JCS cover three categories:

(1) Subject (personnel records, accounts, paychecks, etc.)

(2) Special security classifications (SI, SIOP, SAO, etc.)

(3) Standard security classification (Confidential, Secret, Top Secret, Secret-Noform, etc.)

c. It is the JCS intent to establish a standard color code for implementation by all DoD agencies. Major Beck is somewhat uncertain as to whether this can be interpreted as applying also to NSA.

Comment: It likely will not apply to NSA, considering other DoD directives.

Group I
Excluded from automatic
Downgrading &
Declassification

-2-

d. JCS favors using color labels for tape reels rather than using color reels. This would make it possible to affix the standard DoD color labels to any existing tape reels regardless of what color they have.

e. The DoD inventory of current color codes will not be completed before the end of February 1965. Major Beck will keep Mr. Kullgren informed.

3. It is therefore recommended that action on this question be held in abeyance by CODIB Task Team IX awaiting JCS decision.